

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
February 28, 2005

Present: Berger, Bunker, Chadow, Chair Cooney, Fort, Gwynne, Longley-Cook, McGaughey,

Absent/Excused: McCoy, Steffens

Guests: Anne Steiner

1. **MINUTES:** The minutes of January 24, 2004 were approved with the following corrections: 1) Attendance – change Commissioner McCoy from present to absent, add Commissioner Steffens as present, and 2) Oral Communications, Item #1 – change “Commissioner Charles Bunker will inform the Commission on the status of the Disaster Plan” to “... Disaster Registry.”

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Commissioner Toby Berger shared an article that appeared in the Oakland Tribune that Mark Breimhorst had been named the executive director of the World Institute on Disability (WID). WID is an Oakland based nonprofit research and public policy center promoting the civil rights and full societal inclusion of people with disabilities. She suggested the commission might want to have Mr. Breimhorst make a presentation.
2. Commissioner Toby Berger informed the commission on the proposed school parcel tax per an article in the Alameda Journal. Currently there is a senior citizen exclusion on the existing parcel tax and would like that there be an exclusion for disabled persons.
3. Commissioner Jody Moore informed the commission that the month of February is Autism Awareness Month and that next year the commission or City could recognize this with some kind of activity. Commissioner Toby Berger stated that the commission promotes the month of October as Disability Awareness Month and that this year ‘s activities could include autism.
4. Commissioner Gina McGaughey will provide the commission with written copies of Disability Rights Advocates open door pamphlet.
5. Secretary received a note from Mayor Beverly Johnson requesting that a commissioner volunteer to serve on the Alameda County Commission on Aging. Commissioner Adrienne Longley-Cook volunteered.
6. Secretary informed the commission that there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the New Library and that two temporary disabled parking spaces will be provided.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Bus Shelter (Buena Vista Avenue fronting Marina Cove):**

Chair Ed Cooney and secretary Ed Sommerauer briefed the commission on the new bus shelter at Buena Vista Avenue in front of the Marina Cove development (between Paru Street and Ohlone Street). The location was acceptable.

2. **Disaster Registry Program:**

Commissioner Charles Bunker briefed the new members about the disaster registry program. Currently there are 16 disabled citizens registered in the program. Additional participants will be sought through advertising (i.e. Meals on Wheels, AP&T Flash newsletter, etc.).

3. **Webster Street Renaissance Construction Status:**

Commissioners Gina McGaughey and Charles Bunker briefed the commission on their meeting with the City construction inspector and contractor in maintaining sidewalk accessibility for the visually impaired and wheelchair/walker users along Webster Street and the side streets during construction of the Webster Street Renaissance project. Commissioner Alysa Chadow stated that a guide dog is trained to walk perpendicular across the street and that any sidewalk detouring which is parallel to and within the street pavement area creates confusion to the dog. Guest Anne Steiner informed the commission that the City of Berkeley has guidelines for pedestrian detouring. Secretary informed the commission that pedestrian accessibility is required at all times during construction and it is the contractors' responsibility to maintain access to the approval of the City. Secretary will contact Berkeley.

4. **Solicitation Policy:**

In response to Commissioner Angela Steffens' question at the January meeting "Does the City have a solicitation policy on distribution of flyers within public sidewalk areas", the secretary informed the commission that City's Municipal Code Sections 6-2-2 and 6-2-3 prohibits distribution of handbills and advertising material unless the recipient is asked and willing to accept the handbill.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Policy research, writing and implementation:**

3. Chair Ed Cooney briefed the commission on the sub-committee's progress in developing policy consideration for procedures and resources on providing alternate auxiliary aids for the visually impaired and/or hearing impaired. The commission viewed limiting aids to the

visually impaired and/or hearing impaired as to narrow and that the language should be broadened to cover all areas of disability. A motion carried to disband the sub-committee and create a new sub-committee consisting of commissioners Toby Berger, Adrienne Longley-Cook, Gina McGauhey and Alysia Chadow. Secretary asked the commissioners if they could assist in updating the City's contact resource list. Commissioner Gina McGauhey volunteered.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 28th in Room 391, City Hall.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Naclerio
Public Works Director

By: Ed Sommerauer
Associate Civil Engineer

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